

# THE DURANT WEEKLY NEWS

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## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY IS ORGANIZED IN DURANT

Other Equipment Will Have Government \$30,000 Radio Unit Installed in Armory For Use

The headquarters company of the Oklahoma National Guard has been organized here and will be ready for full strength as soon as the new company is found. Officers of the new company said. Enough recruits have already been recruited to fill two companies, but only one can be used. The minimum strength of the company is 36 men, of which 6 will be sergeants and 30 privates. There will also be a major and sergeant first class. Officers of the company are: Capt. Geo. C. Pendleton, commander, and First Lieut. J. E. Payne, chief of radio section. The headquarters company will also be in charge of the intelligence work which will be done by the company. The company will be in the radio section under Lieut. Ownby. The war department will complete a radio set for use. The set includes wireless equipment and all other accessories. The set is valued at \$30,000. The radio set will be installed in the armory, and regular instruction periods will be given regularly.

Brigade headquarters company will go to the regular encampment at Fort Sill every summer with the rest of the guardsmen. There it will be the headquarters company for the brigade.

## AGED WOMAN IS BADLY BURNED WEDNESDAY

Mrs. Amanda Patterson, Aged 83 May Not Recover From Injuries Suffered When Clothing Catches Fire

Mrs. Amanda Patterson, eighty-three, was probably fatally burned at her home at 602 South Second avenue Wednesday morning when fire flashed from a cook stove setting fire to her clothing. She was badly burned from her knees to her neck, and but for the timely assistance of a neighbor, Mrs. N. O. Padgett, would have been burned to death. Her clothes were torn from her body by Mrs. Padgett, and the fire extinguished.

A physician was immediately called and dressed the wounds from which she was suffering intensely. She was taken to the home of her son, Andrew S. Patterson, 209 W. Georgia St., where she is now being cared for. On account of her extreme old age, it is feared the wounds will prove fatal.

According to Mrs. Padgett, it is believed Mrs. Patterson's clothing caught fire from the cook stove when she raised a lid and set a pan of grease down. Mrs. Padgett said she had just built a fire for Mrs. Patterson and had gone to her own home in the same block when on going into the yard, heard Mrs. Patterson's screams and saw her in the door, her clothing in flames. She ran over with a butcher knife, cut the clothes from Mrs. Patterson.

ade commanded by Brigadier General Chas. E. McPherson, of Durant.

## COUNTY TREASURER BONNER FOUND SHORT AND OUSTED FROM OFFICE

HAD DISAPPEARED FROM DURANT WEEK PREVIOUS. SHORTAGE MAY BE LARGE SUM. TAX ROLL AUDIT ORDERED BY COMMISSIONERS. JIM MOORE, OF CADDO NAMED NEW TREASURER

As a result of a shortage of approximately \$2,000, found in the office of County Treasurer, L. S. Bonner, by W. A. Alexander, of the State Examiner and Inspector's office, County Treasurer L. S. Bonner was suspended from office Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by District Judge March, criminal charges were filed against Mr. Bonner by County Attorney Victor C. Phillips, and J. A. Moore, of Caddo, was Tuesday elected by the county commissioners as temporary county treasurer.

The charges filed by County Attorney Phillips include, corruption in office, willful maladministration, defalcation in office and failure to account for public monies and properties in his hand at an inspection authorized by law. The petition asks his removal from office and will be finally heard by Judge March Saturday morning at ten o'clock. The suspension order issued by the Court Monday was a temporary one pending final hearing.

The thing had been brewing since October 19th, when W. A. Alexander, of the State Examiner and Inspector's office came to Durant to make the regular biennial audit of the Treasurer's records. On October 22, Mr. Alexander found the first irregularity in Mr. Bonner's records. He says he called upon Mr. Bonner for an explanation and that Mr. Bonner told him he would look it up. A week later, October 29, Mr. Alexander says he called Mr. Bonner into the Treasurer's private office and told him that he had had a week to explain the irregularity, that he had not explained it, that he, (Alexander) was laying the matter before the county attorney and that he (Bonner) could do his explaining in that quarter. On the Monday following, October 31, Mr. Bonner was not at the treasurer's office, but he left word with his first deputy, Mr. White that he had gone to Aransas Pass, Texas to see his mother who was very sick and that he would return as soon as he could. Since that time Mr. Bonner has not been heard from. Word, said to have been received from Aransas Pass is to the effect that Mr. Bonner has not been there and that his mother is not ill. The presumption is that he is in old Mexico, which is easy of access from from Aransas Pass or any part of the southern Gulf country.

Mr. Alexander's examination progressed during last week and additional discrepancies were found, the amount up until this week aggregating some \$2,000. Mr. Alexander says. No word was received from Mr. Bonner and Monday the Commissioners acted.

Ouster proceedings were instituted against Bonner and Criminal charges instituted against him and a warrant issued for his arrest. Monday afternoon Judge March acted on the ouster proceedings, temporarily suspending Bonner and all his deputies.

Tuesday afternoon the county commissioners selected Jim A. Moore of Caddo, as county treasurer in Bonner's place. Mr. Moore took charge of the office Wednesday and selected J. E. Payne of Caddo as first deputy, J. L. Thompson of Mead as second deputy and Mrs. Dive Fox of Durant as third deputy.

Jim Moore, the new treasurer, doesn't need an introduction. He is one of the county's best men and best known citizens. He served many years as a member of the county election board and is one of Caddo's foremost citizens and business men. It is believed that his selection will give universal satisfaction over the county.

The absconding treasurer had rather a clever way of getting the people's money, and may have gotten away with it for a long time. The exact amount of the defalcation and the period over which it extended will not be known until a complete audit of the tax rolls is made. This, the county commissioners have ordered and the task will require several months of time.

Tax money is collected and receipts are written in triplicate. The original goes to the taxpayer, the duplicate is used for checking purposes and the triplicate remains in the receipt book. When the biennial audit is made the treasurer is required to present his duplicates. The auditor checks the receipts with the money received, and if the amount is the same the office is declared in balance. The complete tax roll is not checked by the examiner. It was this omission in the provisions

of the law, that Bonner used to his own profit and later undoing. His practice, judging from reports of Mr. Alexander, was to accept taxes from a large taxpayer and issue the original receipt for same. Then, he would change the name on the duplicate and triplicate, make out a much smaller amount and pocket the difference. Quite several instances of this kind have been found, the largest being about \$2,000. There is no telling just what sum may be uncovered by the complete check of the tax rolls.

Under the plan in vogue, when a person pays his taxes the same shows paid on the tax rolls and the number of the receipt given for the same is marked on the line on the roll on which the sum is charged. When a defalcation was made, and the receipts looked up for verification, the number thus marked was so blurred that it could not be made out. In one or two instances the number could be made out, and when it was looked up it was found that the duplicate of that number was to a different person and for a very much smaller amount of money.

The first intimation of trouble came in connection with an original receipt issued to A. L. Kimbriel. Mr. Kimbriel had been issued original receipt No. 5494 for \$175.17, the same being signed by Mr. Bonner. When Mr. Kimbriel came to pay his second half of taxes, he merely referred to the receipt number and asked a deputy to ascertain the amount. Investigation at the office by a deputy revealed that the duplicate of that receipt bore the name of Bob Basset and was for just a few dollars. The number shown on the tax rolls opposite Mr. Kimbriel's name was indistinct. Investigation revealed numerous instances of this kind. What have been found so far have been the result of erasures on duplicate, wrong numbers on rolls opposite taxpayers' names or indistinct numbers opposite taxpayers' names, which have aroused the examiner's suspicion. Only a complete check will reveal the total defalcation.

Mr. Bonner was for four years deputy under ex-County Treasurer Cary Beatty. He gave his employer a personal bond of \$5,000. Some of the defalcations occurred under Mr. Beatty's administration, but it is believed that Bonner's bond may be sufficient to indemnify Beatty against any loss in the matter. A large part of that already discovered has come about since Mr. Bonner's taking office as county treasurer. As the county treasurer, he furnished the county surety company bond of \$125,000 and the county is therefore safe against an ultimate loss.

When first approached about the discrepancy, Bonner is said to have asserted that he had been carrying a shortage of some \$200 for considerable time, and being unable to find it had altered a duplicate receipt, reducing the amount to make his cash balance.

The whole matter comes as rather a shock and a surprise. Mr. Bonner, a citizen of Durant for more than four years had established an excellent reputation as a gentleman and a man of honor. Prior to coming to Durant he was employed by A. N. Leescraft at Colbert, where he also bore a wholesome reputation.

Mr. Bonner's whereabouts at this time are unknown.

## DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE BEGINS FRIDAY THIS WEEK

The international conference on disarmament and questions concerning the Far East, called by President Harding, commences Friday at Washington, with accredited representatives from nearly every civilized country on the globe present. Among the last expressions of President Harding is his reiterated hope that the conference may result in much good to all the peoples of the world.

## ALLEGED TRIFLESSER

Deputy Sheriff Etchison Wednesday arrested one J. L. Bryant and locked him up on a trespassing charge. It is said that Bryant and his family moved through the county from Texas, moved into a tent at house on the Smith-Lee farm below Wade, and refused to vacate when called upon to do so by the owners.

## INDIAN CASE TRIAL ORDERED REOPENED

Choctaws and Chickasaws Win Appeal In A Claim Involving More Than \$700,000 This Week

The United States Court of Claims Monday ordered reopening of the case against the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian tribes involving the claims of J. F. McMurray of McAlester, by granting the motion of the tribes, that they be permitted to take more testimony.

Under congressional authority of 1918, McMurray brought suit in the Court of Claims upon three claims against the two tribes amounting to \$60,000 principal, and \$120,000 interest. Following this the tribes brought an offset of \$216,000. By a supplemental act of Congress McMurray was allowed to set up other claims, which he did, bringing the total of his claim against the tribes to about \$700,000 principal and interest.

The case was closed on March 1, following which Walter Turnbull, for the Choctaws, and William Sample for the Chickasaws, filed a motion with the court to allow more testimony, which motion was supplemented by motions filed by E. O. Clark of Stigler, and G. S. McVay of Ardmore, newly appointed attorneys for the Choctaws and Chickasaws, respectively. The court allowed the motion today. Attorneys for McMurray dismissed one claim for \$50,000 against the two tribes which he claimed for negotiating the supplemental agreement between the Government and the tribes.

## HIGHWAY PATHFINDERS COMING HERE TUESDAY

Officials To Select Southern Route Of Trans-Continental Highway Looking Over Road Through Here

Next Tuesday, several officials of the Lee Highway Association will be through Durant on a pathfinding trip to select the Southern route of the Lee Trans-Continental Highway which will run from Washington, D. C. to Los Angeles, California. The association is said to be committed to two routes, and it is stated on what appears to be good authority that the route through here will be selected as the Southern route.

The party will endeavor to make it through from DeQueen, Arkansas in one day, stopping at Broken Bow, Idabel, Hugo, etc., and they will be escorted along the way by local good roads folks, the Hugo bunch accompanying them to Durant. They plan a night stop here and will then go to Madill, Ardmore, Lawton and on to the westward.

Some of the members of the party will be as follows: Dr. S. M. Johnson, general director, in charge of the party; a representative of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads; M. O. Eldridge, highway expert of the American Automobile Association; R. P. Johnson, field secretary of the Lee Highway Association; Thomas R. King, manager of the highway division of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce; and a representative of the Oklahoma Highway Department.

Mrs. E. M. Evans and son Everett have come to Durant to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Hamilton.

## ADVERTISING

We know that it pays to advertise provided one does not spend more than he can afford. We probably do not advertise as much as we should but we are trying in every way possible to keep down our expenses which will enable us to sell cheaper. By doing this we have increased our business to where we find that it is now possible for us to make a still further slight reduction in our profits. It has been reported on the streets that we are losing money. That we are selling our merchandise below cost and a lot of other things with about the same amount of reason attached to it. Merchants are not in business to sell below cost so don't let this idea get into your mind. We are making a profit and expect to continue making a profit yet we promise you now that it is going to be a very small one. The more our business increases the cheaper we expect to sell merchandise. One thing is certain; we are not guessing. We know exactly at the end of every day just what we have done and another thing is we get the cash and you are not paying the other fellows debts when you trade at THE DIXIE STORE.

One hundred and thirty-three of your neighbors bought shoes from us Saturday. Where are you buying yours?

Remember  
If you want to save  
—Come To—  
**DIXIE STORE**

Where up-town prices look extravagant

P. S.—We are having a number of inquiries from merchants over the country asking for samples and prices. We would be glad to handle this part of your business but unless we knew exactly just how much of it we could depend on we will not be in a position at this time to take care of it. We thank you just the same.



## New Fall Clothes At Lower Prices

Kuppenheimer

Langham-High

Spero-Michael

That sold from \$40 to \$85 last year. We're now selling at \$25.00 to \$45

They have the high grade tailoring, the new smart fabrics, the good style that they always had—

They retain their shape and look good as long as there's any of them left.

A large assortment of Regulars, Stouts and Slims, all wool Suits as low as \$16.50

## OVERCOATS

This is Overcoat weather and these sudden changes call for either warm overcoat or chance of a doctor bill.

Menswear  
Hats  
Campus Caps  
Boys  
Suits and  
Overcoats

**Mercantile Co.**  
GOOD THINGS TO WEAR